and Spicer have a new edition of the catalogue just ready, which will doubtless be more useful than the first. Under great difficulties these gentlemen kept their word, and were ready on the opening day, not only with the shilling catalogue, but with the first part of their *Illustrated Edition*. The latter contains a description of the building by Mr. Digby Wyatt, and some other useful introductory matter.

NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE, IN THE STRAND.

The original Northumberland House was built in 1605, and Bernard Jansen and Gerard Christmas are supposed to have been the architects. According to a MS. note by Inigo Jones, in his copy of "Palladio," in Worcester College, Oxford,* the front was 162 feet in length, and the court 81 feet square. All that is old of the building we now see is the curious façade next the Strand, surmounted by the lion of the Percys. Along the front originally there was a border of capital letters instead of the present ugly parapet.

In the quiet court-yard, of plain Italian character, to which the handsome portal leads, it is difficult to believe that you stand in the throbbing heart of an excited city. The figure of Nelson, and the Lion, inscribed *Espérance en Dieu*, seen above the façade (an appropriate conjunction), alone enable you to recall the locality. At the back are grass, gravelled walks, and flourishing trees. The staircase is very handsome. It has a central flight of marble steps, and branches right and left; with richly worked *or-molu* railing and lamps, scagliola columns, and carved marble podium. The great feature of the house, however, is the Picture Gallery, an apartment of large size, richly (perhaps too richly) ornamented with groups in relief, eagles, boys, and foliage fully gilt, and containing a series of fine copies of Raffaelle's School of Athens, Marriage of Cupid and Psyche, and others. Amongst the pictures, with which the walls of the other rooms are covered, will be found choice specimens of the art of Titian, Vandyke, Salvator, Carravaggio, and others. Admission till now has been obtained with difficulty.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.

In your last week's number, in the account of the "Edinburgh Assembly Hall struck by Lightning," you observe that "the spire had no lightning conductor."

So frequently are these occurrences recorded, that one should imagine their cost to prohibit their employment; but from having for some years past attached those invented by Professor John Murray to many towers and spires, and witnessed their efficacy, I can assert that the cost has not in any case exceeded two shillings per lineal foot, including the gilt head and water-tank.

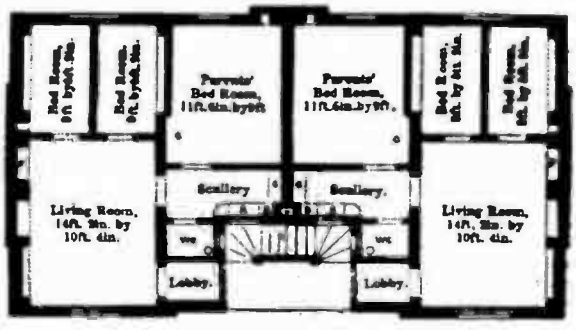
Whilst King Cross Church, at Halifax, was unfinished, and the conductor incomplete (the lower end being 20 feet from the ground), an electric discharge took place during a heavy thunder-storm, which passed down the conductor, and struck the ground at some short distance from it, without affecting the building. Scaffold-poles were at the time many feet above the level of the attracting point, and lead flashing within three feet of the conductor: the holders were of glass, secured by iron loops run with lead to the stone-work, the conductor being formed so as to admit of contraction and expansion.

With so efficacious and inexpensive a remedy (which you have frequently noticed heretofore), why need we have to record the destruction of buildings by almost every thunder-storm?—R. Dennis Chantrell.

The Warwickshire Archæological and Natural History Society and the Northamptonshire Architectural Society will hold a public meeting at St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, on Wednesday, the 21st instant, when several papers will be read, and the various churches, &c., visited. On the following day an excursion will take place to examine the most interesting objects in the neighbourhood.

* Quoted in "Hand-Book for London."

PLAN OF MODEL HOUSES FOR FOUR FAMILIES.



SCALE OF 0 5 6 10 15 18 30 FEET.

REFERENCES.

A, Sink, with coal-box under.
B, Plate-rack, over entrance to dust-shaft, D.
C, Meat-safe, ventilated through hollow bricks.
E, Staircase of slate, with dust-place under.
F, Cupboard warmed from back of fire-place.
G, Linen closet in this recess, if required.

MODEL HOUSES FOR FOUR FAMILIES ERECTED AT THE CAVALRY BARRACKS, HYDE-PARK.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert, as President of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes, has had this building raised with a desire of conveying practical information calculated to promote the much needed improvement of the dwellings of the working classes, and also of stimulating visitors to the Great Exhibition whose position and circumstances may enable them, by the carrying out of similar undertakings, without pecuniary sacrifice, permanently to benefit those who are greatly dependent on others for their home and domestic comforts.

In its *general arrangement*, the building is adapted for the occupation of four families of the class of manufacturing and mechanical operatives, who usually reside in towns, or in their immediate vicinity; and as the value of land, which leads to the economising of space, by the placing of more than one family under the same roof, in some cases, renders the addition of a third, and even of a fourth, story desirable, the plan has been suited to such an arrangement without any other alteration than the requisite increase in the strength of the walls.

The most prominent peculiarity of the design is that of the receding and protected central open staircase, with the connecting gallery on the first floor, formed of slate, and sheltered from the weather by the continuation of the main roof, which also screens the entrances to the dwellings.

The four tenements are arranged on precisely the same plan, two on each floor.

The entrance is through a small lobby, lighted from the upper part of the door.

The living room has a superficial area of about 150 feet, with a closet on one side of the fireplace, to which warm air may be introduced from the back of the range: the corresponding recess may be fitted up with shelves; and on the opposite side of the room a shelf is carried above the doors, with a rail fixed between them.

The scullery is fitted up with a sink, beneath which is a coal-bin of slate: a plate-rack at one end, drained by a slate slab into the sink, covers the entrance to the dust-shaft, which is enclosed by a balanced self-acting iron door. The dust-shaft leads into a closed depository under the stairs, and has a ventilating flue, carried up above the roof. At one end of the scullery is an enclosure, forming a meat safe, ventilated through the hollow brickwork: shelves are fixed over the doors, and a dresser-flap against the partition wall.

The sleeping apartments, being three in number, provide for that separation which, with a family, is so essential to morality and decency. Each has its distinct access, and a window into the open air: two have fire-places.

The children's bed-rooms contain 50 feet superficial each, and, opening out of the living room, an opportunity is afforded for the exercise of parental watchfulness, without the unwholesome crowding of the living room by its use as a sleeping apartment.

The parents' bed-room, with a superficial area of about 100 feet, is entered through the scullery—an arrangement in many respects preferable to a direct approach from the living room, particularly in case of sickness. The recess in this room provides a closet for linen; and a shelf is carried over the door, with a rail fixed beneath it—a provision which is made in each of the other bed-rooms.

The water-closet is fitted up with a Staffordshire glazed basin, which is complete without any wood fittings, and supplied with water from a slate cistern in common of 160 gallons, placed on the roof over the party and staircase walls. The same pipes which carry away the rain-water from the roof serve for the use of the closets.

CONSTRUCTIVE ARRANGEMENT.

The peculiarities of the building in this respect are, the exclusive use of hollow bricks for the walls and partitions (excepting the foundations, which are of ordinary brickwork), and the entire absence of timber in the floors and roof, which are formed with flat arches of hollow brickwork, rising from 8 to 9 inches, set in cement, and tied in by wrought-iron rods connected with cast-iron springers, which rest on the external walls, and bind the whole structure together: the building is thus rendered fire-proof, and much less liable to decay than those of ordinary construction. The roof arching, which is levelled with concrete, and covered with patent metallic lava, effectually secures the upper rooms from the liability to changes of temperature to which apartments next the roof are generally subject, and the transmission of sound, as well as the percolation of moisture, so common through ordinary floors, is effectually impeded by the hollow-brick arched floors.

The external and main internal walls are of patent bonded brickwork, which has the important advantages of securing dryness and warmth,* with economy of construction: another important benefit arising from the use of hollow bricks is, that where they are laid double, in parallel courses, without headers, as in the patent bonded brickwork, the internal face of the wall is sufficiently smooth to render plastering unnecessary. In the present instance, where plastering has been resorted

* Those who are conversant with the evils resulting from the absorption of moisture by common bricks, and the consequent loss of temperature in rooms by evaporation, will duly appreciate these advantages.